

Serial No.: 10/645,687
Art Unit: 2165

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are currently pending. Claims 1-22 have been amended for clarification purposes. The support for the amendment of claims 1-22 is found in Figure 1a and elsewhere. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

The summary of the invention has been amended to be commensurate with the independent claims as amended. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

The Patent Office rejected claims 1-8, 12-20, and 22 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Alam, U.S. Patent No. 6,324,544, in view of Champagne, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2005/0086199.

Claim 1 recites as follows:

A method for synchronizing data between a first electronic device and a second electronic device, said devices being capable of communication with each other, the method comprising: forming a data item for the first time into the first electronic device, in response to said forming, checking whether a first grouping identifier is suitable for the formed data item; in response to a situation in which the first grouping identifier is suitable for the formed data item, associating the formed data item to the first grouping identifier, the first grouping identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping said data items, in response to a situation in which the first grouping identifier is not suitable for the formed data item, obtaining a second grouping identifier and associating the formed data item to the second grouping identifier, the second grouping identifier being associable to at least one other data item for grouping said data items, selecting one of the following: the first grouping identifier and the second grouping identifier, to be a selected grouping identifier, and synchronizing said data items between said first electronic device and said second electronic device on the basis of said selected grouping identifier.

Claim 15 recites as follows:

An electronic device for synchronizing data between the electronic device and at least one another electronic device, said electronic devices being capable of communication connection with each other, the electronic device comprising: a memory for storing a data item for a first time, associating means for providing a possibility to check whether a first grouping identifier is suitable for the stored data item, for associating the stored data item to the first grouping identifier in response to a situation in which the first grouping identifier is suitable for the formed data item, and for obtaining a second grouping identifier and associating the stored data

Serial No.: 10/645,687
Art Unit: 2165

item to the second grouping identifier in response to a situation in which the first grouping identifier is not suitable for the formed data item, the first and the second grouping identifiers being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the electronic device, selecting means for selecting one of the following; the first grouping identifier and the second grouping identifier, to be a selected grouping identifier for synchronization, and synchronizing means for synchronizing said data items between the electronic device and the at least one another electronic device on the basis of the selected grouping identifier.

Claim 22 recites as follows:

A computer program product for a first electronic device for synchronizing data between said first electronic device and at least one another electronic device, said electronic devices being capable of communication connection with each other, the computer program product comprising: computer program means for causing the first electronic device to store a data item for a first time into a memory of the first electronic device, computer program means for causing the first electronic device to provide a possibility to check whether a first grouping identifier is suitable for the stored data item, computer program means for causing the first electronic device to associate the stored data item to the first grouping identifier in response to a situation in which the first grouping identifier is suitable for the formed data item, and to obtain a second grouping identifier and to associate the stored data item to the second grouping identifier in response to a situation in which the first grouping identifier is not suitable for the formed data item, the first and the second grouping identifiers being associable to at least one data item stored into the memory of the first electronic device, computer program means for causing the first electronic device to select one of the following; the first grouping identifier and the second grouping identifier, to be a selected grouping identifier for synchronization, and computer program means for causing the first electronic device to synchronize said data items between said first electronic device and at least one another electronic device on the basis of said at least one selected grouping identifier.

The independent claims of the present application recite the following features i) a formed data item is associated with a grouping identifier; ii) the grouping identifier is associable with at least one other data item for grouping the data items; iii) at least one grouping identifier is selected, and iv) data items between a first electronic device and a second electronic device are synchronized on the basis of the at least one selected group identifier.

Serial No.: 10/645,687
Art Unit: 2165

Additionally, the independent claims now also recite the following features: a) a first grouping identifier is checked whether the first grouping identifier is suitable for the formed/stored data item and b) as a response to a situation in which the first grouping identifier is not suitable for the formed/stored data item, a second grouping identifier is obtained.

Alam (US 6324544) discloses a solution in which data can be synchronized between a first computing device and a second computing device in such a way that undesired duplicate data can be avoided, e.g., in a situation in which a file is renamed on the first (or second) computing device. This is based on determining whether a file (or like) already exists in a computing device under a different name after adding said file into said computing device and deleting the file with the different name if it existed.

Champagne (US 2005/0086199) discloses a solution for transferring records between databases that may have different organizations of data in records of databases. The organization of data in records is expressed with a quantity expressing the number of data fields in a record and with information characterizing the data fields. A data field is characterised with "category" information that defines a type of information the field is meant to contain (e.g. a name of a person, an address, etc) and with "property" information that defines a format of data contained by the field (e.g. number of bits, integer, text, etc). In the solution disclosed by Champagne, a field map is established by correlating a plurality of data fields of a first database to a plurality of data fields of a second database using the above-mentioned information. Data synchronization between the first and the second database is performed using the field map.

The fact that new grouping identifiers can be obtained/ created in conjunction with storing data items opens a door for a tailored grouping of data items that, according to Applicant's understanding, is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

The Patent Office rejected claims 9-11 and 21 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Alam, in view of Champagne, and further in view of Hunkins, U.S. Patent No. 6,141,663.

Claims 9-11 and 21 are allowable at least for the reasons that claims 1-10, 12-20, and 22 are allowable.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Alam in view of Champagne or Alam in view of

Serial No.: 10/645,687
Art Unit: 2165

Champagne and further in view of Huskin, and to allow all of the pending claims 1-22 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of claims 1-22 is earnestly solicited.